

Just because you have never seen a ghost does not mean that
ghosts do not exist and that other people have not seen them. I once
knew of a case where a friend of mine was invited to spend the night
alone in a house which was said to be haunted. In the daytime he
not only agreed to go but also asserted his belief that there never was
and never would be a ghost. He even said something about being willing
to eat the first one he met, horns, hooves, and tail. That is
just how brave he was.

When night came on and the shadows fell, and when the time
came for him to prove his theory, he found that he had to go and
pay a visit to a sick aunt who lived some eight or ten miles away
in another direction. I have found it to be like that with most people.
Somehow they do not seem to have the same opinion of the matter at
night that they do during the day, though why this should be so
has always been a mystery to me.

These are the things which make it hard for the one who has to
tell a story about ghosts. The storyteller knows that sticking to the truth
and stating the facts as they are will only be to invite scorn. Yet trying to
varnish the story and make it pretty so as to fit the ideas
of doubting readers will spoil it by giving half-truths – which may be no
better than no truth at all.

For that very reason, when one starts to tell a tale that is really
wild, weird, and uncanny in its detail, it is a good thing to do as the
experts are made to do in the courts – that is, to qualify their remarks
and ask that credit be given their testimony based on past experiences

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |